

**Minutes  
Watertown Historical Commission  
Thursday, October 13, 2011  
Lower Hearing Room  
7:00pm**

**Historical Commission Members Present:** David J. Russo, Jr., J. B. Jones, Marilynne K. Roach, Elisabeth H. Loukas, Susan T. Steele

**Historical Commission Member Absent:** Donald S. Berg, Thomas Melone

**Staff Present:** Christopher J. Hayward, Daphne M. Collins

**Public Present:** See attached Sign-In Form

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David Russo chaired. The meeting opened at 7:00p.m.

**1. Public Hearing – Demolition Permit – 74 Acton Street to consider the demolition request of a 1-story brick and steel industrial building to be replaced by a new steel building. Applicant, Edward Hardy; Owner, HAPS Corporation.**

Joe Hardy, partner of applicant, reported that they are proposing to demolish the existing industrial building located at 74 Acton Street. The existing 30,000 square foot structure will be replaced with a smaller 15,000 square foot structure. The new facility will house an athletic facility for yoga and rock climbing. He reported that the zoning code allows for a 54' high structure. They are proposing a 50' high one. He said that the building will have windows to provide natural light.

J. B. Jones inquired if the facility is prefabricated. Hardy responded that it was. He indicated that there will be a mezzanine area for parties. He noted that the new site will have 30% more green space and that the parking spaces provided will be increased from 31 to 41.

Russo was concerned about the large, severe wall. He inquired if design elements could be included to break it up.

Russo reported that the site consisted of series of buildings built during the 1920's to the 1940's, housing the Metro Ice Company, the Ice and Coal Company, and Jack Pack Hamburgers.

Susan Steele stated that the building had no historic significance. She thought the proposed set-backs and green space were improvements over existing conditions.

Jones did not think the proposed building lend itself to a neighborhood scale, and that the existing building had no architectural merit. He suggested that efforts be made to mitigate the impact of the massing for the residential abutters. Loukas concurred.

Russo thought the brick work on the existing building was nice. However, it was not historically significant.

**Vote:** Steele moved to determine that 74 Acton Street is not preferably preserved. Loukas seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

The memo to Kenneth Thompson, the Building Inspector, will include the HC's suggestion that the applicant include details that will break up the wall's massing.

**2. Public Hearing – Demolition Permit – Lot 21 Summer Street to demolish a one-car garage to be replaced with a two-family residence. Applicant Joseph Deodado.**

Joseph Deodado reported that he is proposing the demolition of a garage that was built in 1959 on Lot 21 Summer Street; a property he recently purchased. He plans to build a two-family residence on the site.

Jones and Steele suggested that the front set backs be aligned to the neighboring properties.

Diane Pasquale reported that the property had been in her family for 100 years. The land was used as a vegetable garden. Her family lived across the street at 176 Summer Street. In 1950, her father a registered engineer employed by Raytheon built the garage and shed. Though well built it was not of historic note.

**Vote:** Steele moved that the garage located at Lot 21 Summer Street is not preferably preserved. Loukas seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Steele asked Pasquale that if she had any photos of the street that the HC would be interested in them for historic records.

**3. Section 106 Review/Invitation to Comment - 805 Mount Auburn Street – Telecommunication Facility**

Collins reported that the applicant had been notified of the meeting. Staff had also requested more information regarding the proposed telecommunication facility at 805 Auburn Street. This property abuts the Mt. Auburn Cemetery. The applicant has not responded.

Russo will visit Mt. Auburn Cemetery to see if the property site lines are problematic. Collins will call the applicant and MHC to inform them that the HC is concerned about this proposal as it is adjacent to the Mt. Auburn Cemetery and without any additional information the HC's may file a negative comment.

**4. Section 106 Review/Invitation to Comment - 4 Rosary Place – Rehabilitation with federal & state funds**

Steve Laferriere, Watertown Community Housing Project Manager, reported that MHC did not find 4 Rosary Place meriting listing in the MHC's or the National listing for

historic places. The MHC forwarded this negative determination to the U.S. Department of the Interior. In addition, MHC submitted a Section 106 Review Response letter (dated 9/28/11) to the applicant noting that the proposed project would have no negative impact since it is not a historic resource.

The HC disagrees with this determination and a letter will be sent to MHC and to the U.S. Department of the Interior with the local rationale for the property's listing.

**5. Watertown Historical Commission Ordinance Update** – Rescheduled to next meeting.

**6. Old Business**

**a. Signage** –Joyce Kelly reported the Historical Society of Watertown was awarded a \$3000 grant. A portion of these funds will be allocated to fund one replacement historic plaque at the Curtis Memorial stone.

The Committee met with Tufts Health Plan to discuss the plaque for the Arlington Street Cemetery. Tufts was supportive of the proposed sign concepts suggested by the Committee and will be providing in-house graphic design support.

**b. 77 Riverside Landmark** – The item will go before the Town Council on October 27.

**7. September 2011 Minutes** – Approved.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30pm.

